

REMARKS

Claim 1 is pending in this application. Claim 1 has been amended and no new claims have been added.

Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, for failing to comply with the written description requirement.

In the most recent Office Action, the Examiner referred to the recited passage “in the fully tightened position,” which was changed via amendment in the response dated June 14, 2005 to read “is in a tightened-up state.” In a telephonic interview with the Examiner on August 19, 2005, Applicants’ undersigned attorney discussed this matter and the Examiner indicated that the 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, rejection had been overcome by the previous amendment and should be disregarded in the present Office Action and that no further amendment is necessary.

The Examiner has maintained from the previous Office Action the 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejection of claim 1 as unpatentable over Nakazawa et al. in view of McGarvey.

Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

FIG. 2 of McGarvey shows conical faces 32, 34 of gasket 12 engaged with rounded, annular noses 36, 38 defined on glands 14, 16, respectively. This is in contrast to the present invention, in which the engaging surfaces are flat before the annular ridges 81a, 82a impinge on them to help form a seal, as shown, for example, in FIGS. 1(b) and 2(b) of the instant application. These faces are not inclined, as are the conical faces 32, 34 of gasket 12 in McGarvey.

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/437,296
Preliminary Amendment

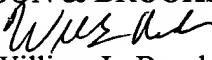
Accordingly, claim 1 has been amended to recite that the “gasket holding annular ridges are rounded so as to be in contact with flat, non-inclined faces of the gasket only at its radial midportion....” If the faces of the gasket were inclined to be conical, as in McGarvey, the gasket holding annular ridge would not be effective in contacting them and providing an effective seal.

Claim 1 is now in condition for further consideration.

In the event that this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fees for such an extension of time and any other fees which may be due with respect to this paper, to Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,

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PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

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Enclosures: Petition for Extension of Time
Request for Continued Examination
Check in the amount of \$1,240.00